

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, May 9, 2016
12:30 PM – The Old U.S. Mint
New Orleans, Louisiana**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum was called to order by Dr. Lawrence Powell at 12:30 PM at The Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Madlyn B. Bagneris; Julie F. Breitmeyer; Rennie Buras II; Tamra Carboni; Mary C. Coulon; Rosemary Upshaw Ewing; D. Lee Felterman; Sharon Turcan Gahagan; Janet V. Haedicke; Harry S. Hardin, III; Fairleigh Cook Jackson; Kevin Kelly; Aleta Leckelt; Carolyn K. Morris; Lawrence N. Powell; Anne F. Redd; Melissa D. Steiner; Lana Sonnier Venable; and William Wilton

Members Absent: George A. Hero, III

Also Present: Ruth Burke, President of the Friends of the Cabildo; Guy Laigast, Chief of Staff for the Lt. Governor's office; Susan Maclay, Executive Director of the La. Museum Foundation; Julia George Moore, DCRT Counsel; Billy Nungesser, Lieutenant Governor; Julie Samson, Senior Advisor to the Lt. Governor; and Jason Strada, Executive Director of the Friends of the Cabildo

LSM Staff Present: Yvette Cuccia; Keri Ellison; Melvin Gilbert; Dawn Hammatt; Marvin McGraw; Yvonne Mack; Faith Troxler; Robert Wheat; and Celestine Washington

Tenants Present: Charles and Kathy Cole, 515 St. Ann Street, 3rd floor
Marianne Lewis, Manager of Jackie's and Violet's
Carol Lewis, 810 Chartres Street, 2nd floor

Call to Order

The LSM Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Dr. Powell.

Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Powell recommended amending the agenda as follows:

After adoption of the agenda, and following the approval of the minutes from the February 22, 2016 meeting, board members will take the oath of office, draw lots, and introduce themselves whereupon the Lt. Governor will be provided an opportunity to address the board.

Madlyn Bagernis MOVED to adopt changes to the agenda as proposed by Dr. Powell. Seconded by Melissa Steiner. After an opportunity for discussion and public comment, the changes to the agenda were **unanimously approved**.

Swearing in of board members

All board members were sworn in by DCRT Legal Counsel Julia George Moore.

Drawing of Lots

In accordance with R.S. 25:341(E)(2)(b), which became effective January 12, 2016, appointed members of the LSM Board drew lots to determine the length of their initial term in office. As a result of the drawing, the initial terms are as follows:

Madlyn Bagernis – 4; Julie Breitmeyer – 4; Tamra Carboni – 1; Mary Coulon – 3; Rosemary Ewing – 4; Lee Felterman – 2; Sharon Gahagan – 2; Janet Haedicke – 2; Harry Hardin – 1; George Hero (lot drawn by Rennie Buras) – 4; Fairleigh Cook Jackson – 3; Kevin Kelly – 1; Aleta Leckelt – 3; Carolyn Morris – 3; Lawrence Powell – 2; Anne Redd – 1; Melissa Steiner – 3; Lana Venable – 2; Will Wilton – 4; At-large board member (lot drawn by Yvette Cuccia) – 1

Introductions

LSM Board members, DCRT and OSM staff, and representatives from support organizations introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 22, 2016 meeting were distributed in advance. There was a change on Page 6 from Baton Rouge Arts Foundation to Baton Rouge Area Foundation. Subject to the change on page 6, Ms. Redd MOVED, seconded by Mr. Wilton, to approve the LSM Board minutes from February 22, 2016. There was no public comment. **Unanimously approved**.

Lt. Governor Nungesser's address to the board

Lt. Gov. Nungesser thanked both the new and old members for their service, acknowledged the time commitment, and addressed the issue of the vacancy in the Director's position and the Board's role in appointing a search committee to nominate candidates to the Lieutenant Governor for permanent appointment.

Lt. Governor Nungesser noted his interest in improving the condition and management of the Lower Pontalba; participating in New Orleans' 300th Anniversary commemoration activities; and leading an organized, collaborative, and coordinated campaign for the Jazz Exhibit. Lt. Governor Nungesser requested that at least two members of the LSM Board serve on a committee to work

with the jazz campaign team. Improved communications among staff, LSM Board members, tenants, support organizations, and stakeholders will be a priority.

Ms. Ewing MOVED, that the board meetings take place the 2nd Monday of each month at noon, with the meeting starting at 12:30pm. The board will NOT meet in July and August. Seconded by Anne Redd the motion was **unanimously approved**.

Collections report

On behalf of LSM Registrar Beth Sherwood, OSM staff member Dawn Hammett requested action from the LSM Board to approve an outgoing loan of eight (8) items from the Louisiana State Museum to the Louisiana Old State Capitol Museum, the details of which are set forth in a May 9, 2016 memorandum (Exhibit A).

Dr. Haedicke MOVED, seconded by Mr. Wilton, to approve the loan. **Unanimously approved.**

LSM properties report

William Stark, branch director for the museums outside of New Orleans, reported that he and the branch museums work closely with Dawn Hammatt and her exhibits team to coordinate exhibits and openings.

There are three major upcoming events:

1. Saturday, June 11 at 7:00pm is the Friends of Capital Park gala
2. Saturday, June 25 at 2:00pm is the opening of the *Hometown Teams* exhibit in Natchitoches
3. Saturday, June 25 at 4:45pm (reception) and 6:00pm (ceremony) is the SHOF induction ceremony in Natchitoches.

Mr. Buras asked Dawn Hammatt and Bill Stark to put together information and a calendar for all LSM properties and their respective upcoming events.

Friends of the Cabildo report

FOC President Ruth Burke provided an overview of the FOC and update on their activities.

The FOC was founded in 1956 and currently has approximately 1,200 members. The proceeds from their French Quarter tours are put into a fund that usually supplies \$35,000 to the LSM for programming, exhibits and educational workshops.

The FOC is currently working on an exhibit about architecture that will open at Madame John's Legacy. The FOC is about to begin a capital campaign to raise \$300,000 for the exhibit, which is scheduled to open March, 2018.

Louisiana Museum Foundation report

Executive Director Susan Maclay provided an overview of the LMF and an update on the LMF's activities.

The LMF was founded in 1981 and membership starts at the \$1,000 level. (For persons under 40-years-of age, membership is \$500.) Ms. McClay distributed LMF's most recent audit. The primary role of the LMF, she explained, is to administer funds for the LSM and to apply for and administer grants. Any fundraising done by the LMF is focused primarily in New Orleans and centers around specific exhibits, like the jazz exhibit.

The LMF's annual membership meeting will be on May 17 at Brennan's in the French Quarter. Mr. Kelly asked Ms. Maclay how much money the LMF raises for the LSM. Ms. Maclay said their primary purpose is to administer grants and funds.

Dr. Powell that a formal presentation on the jazz campaign be presented at the next board meeting. Ms. Maclay hopes that Jeff Hale, the campaign fundraiser, will be available to make a presentation.

Old business

Deputy Director Robert Wheat gave an update on the fire at the Presbytere. All damage was covered by insurance, and it is hoped that the museum will be open within the next week.

The exterior repairs to the Cabildo and Presbytere are on schedule. Both projects should be completed in August, 2016, depending on the weather.

Dr. Haedicke asked if the board has appointed a representative to the VCC Commission. Ms. Redd suggested that once the Officers are elected, it should be discussed between the new Chair and the Lt. Governor's office. The person must reside in Orleans Parish. Lt. Governor Nungesser asked board members who are interested to send their name to Rennie Buras.

Public comment

Marianne Lewis introduced herself and her mother to the board. Her mother Carol Lewis is a current residential tenant and they both own and manager Violet's and Jackie's, which are commercial properties at the Lower Pontalba building. She said the tenants are looking forward to a sense of community and want to help in any way they can to make the LSM a success.

Ms. M. Lewis said she would also like to be given more information on projects which may in the future impede business at the Pontalba.

Charles Cole, tenant at 515 St. Ann, 3rd floor addressed the board and said he would like to see a tenant spokesman attend the Irby meetings.

Ms. Ewing MOVED, seconded by Dr. Haedicke, to adjourn. **Unanimously approved.**